

***Impaired drivers put themselves and everyone around them at high risk of injury or death from a motor vehicle crash.***

***Many injuries happen in predictable, preventable ways.***

***Don't drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs. Have a designated driver or take a cab. If starting a new medication, make sure you know how it affects you before driving.***

## Impaired Driving

- Impaired driving is the crime of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, including those prescribed by physicians.
- In the United States, approximately 30 people die every day from a crash involving an alcohol-impaired driver. That's one death every 51 minutes.<sup>1</sup>
- Annual costs for alcohol-related crashes in the United States exceed \$59 billion.<sup>2</sup>
- In an average week in Oklahoma, approximately 137 people are involved in alcohol-related crashes, resulting in approximately 4 deaths per week.<sup>3</sup>
- People in crashes involving an impaired driver are much more likely to be hospitalized or die than people in crashes without an impaired driver.<sup>4</sup>
- Drivers impaired by alcohol/drugs are much less likely to use safety equipment such as seat belts or helmets for motorcyclists.<sup>4</sup>
- Drugs other than alcohol (such as marijuana and cocaine) are involved in 18% of fatal motor vehicle crashes and often are used along with alcohol.<sup>4</sup>

## Prevention

- Choose a designated driver or make other arrangements for safe transportation if you plan to consume alcohol away from home.
- Do not drive if you are impaired by alcohol and/or drugs or ride with anyone who is. If your friend is impaired, take away his/her car keys.
- If starting a new medication, ask your doctor or pharmacist if it may affect your ability to drive.
- Parents and communities should work together to prevent underage drinking and make clear to young people the dangers and severe consequences of impaired driving.

## Internet Resources

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired/>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired\\_Driving/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired_Driving/index.html)
3. Oklahoma Highway Safety Office: [http://ok.gov/ohso/documents/2013FB\\_Per\\_AlcoholRelated.pdf](http://ok.gov/ohso/documents/2013FB_Per_AlcoholRelated.pdf)
4. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety: [http://www.iihs.org/research/topics/alcohol\\_drugs.html](http://www.iihs.org/research/topics/alcohol_drugs.html)

***Live Injury-Free!***